

What is claimed is:

1. A system for managing interference in a communications network which establishes communication cells at respective locations on the surface of the earth to enable communication between a plurality of user terminals, comprising:

an interference detector, adapted to detect interference in said network which interferes with an ability of at least one user terminal to communicate in said network; and

an interference source identifier, adapted to identify a source of said interference by deactivating at least one select group of said user terminals based on criteria independent of the respective cell or cells in which said user terminals reside, to locate those of said terminals whose ability to communicate in said network is being interfered with by said detected interference.

2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said communications network includes a satellite communications network and said user terminals include satellite terminals; and

said interference source identifier deactivates said at least one select group of said satellite terminals.

3. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said interference source identifier deactivates said at least one select group of user terminals which are all located within a portion of a single cell.

4. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said interference source identifier deactivates said at least one select group of user terminals which are located within multiple cells.

5. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

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said interference source identifier deactivates said at least one select group of user terminals which are all located in a respective geographic region having a size independent of a size of any of said cells.

6. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said interference source identifier deactivates said at least one select group of user terminals having data receiving addresses within a particular range of addresses.

7. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said interference source identifier deactivates said at least one select group of user terminals having user terminal identifiers within a particular range of user terminal identifiers.

8. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said interference source identifier deactivates said at least one select group of user terminals having a particular supplier identifier which identifies a supplier of said user terminals.

9. A method for managing interference in a communications network which establishes communication cells at respective locations on the surface of the earth to enable communication between a plurality of user terminals, comprising:

detecting interference in said network which interferes with an ability of at least one user terminal to communicate in said network; and

identifying a source of said interference by deactivating at least one select group of said user terminals based on criteria independent of the respective cell or cells in which said user terminals reside, to locate those of said terminals whose ability to communicate in said network is being interfered with by said detected interference.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

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said communications network includes a satellite communications network and said user terminals include satellite terminals; and

said interference source identifier deactivates said at least one select group of said satellite terminals.

11. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

said interference source identifying step deactivates said at least one select group of user terminals which are all located within a portion of a single cell.

12. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

said interference source identifying step deactivates said at least one select group of user terminals which are located within multiple cells.

13. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

said interference source identifying step deactivates said at least one select group of user terminals which are all located in a respective geographic region having a size independent of a size of any of said cells.

14. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

said interference source identifying step deactivates said at least one select group of user terminals having data receiving addresses within a particular range of addresses.

15. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

said interference source identifying step deactivates said at least one select group of user terminals having user terminal identifiers within a particular range of user terminal identifiers.

16. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

said interference source identifying step deactivates said at least one select group of user terminals having a particular supplier identifier which identifies a supplier of said user terminals.

17. A computer-readable medium of instructions, adapted to control a communications network to manage interference in said communications network which establishes communication cells at respective locations on the surface of the earth to enable communication between a plurality of user terminals, said computer-readable medium of instructions comprising:

a first set of instructions, adapted to control said communications network to detect interference in said network which interferes with an ability of at least one user terminal to communicate in said network; and

a second set of instructions, adapted to control said communications network to identify a source of said interference by deactivating at least one select group of said user terminals based on criteria independent of the respective cell or cells in which said user terminals reside, to locate those of said terminals whose ability to communicate in said network is being interfered with by said detected interference.

18. A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 17, wherein:

said communications network includes a satellite communications network and said user terminals include satellite terminals; and

said second set of instructions controls said communications network to deactivate said at least one select group of said satellite terminals.

19. A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 17, wherein:

said second set of instructions controls said communications network to deactivate said at least one select group of user terminals which are all located within a portion of a single cell.

20. A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 17, wherein:

said second set of instructions controls said communications network to deactivate said at least one select group of user terminals which are located within multiple cells.

21. A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 17, wherein:

said second set of instructions controls said communications network to deactivate said at least one select group of user terminals which are all located in a respective geographic region having a size independent of a size of any of said cells.

22. A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 17, wherein:

said second set of instructions controls said communications network to deactivate said at least one select group of user terminals having data receiving addresses within a particular range of addresses.

23. A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 17, wherein:

said second set of instructions controls said communications network to deactivate said at least one select group of user terminals having user terminal identifiers within a particular range of user terminal identifiers.

24. A computer-readable medium of instructions as claimed in claim 17, wherein:

said second set of instructions controls said communications network to deactivate said at least one select group of user terminals having a particular supplier identifier which identifies a supplier of said user terminals.

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